



State Publication
(R 1/03)

Publication 401
Indiana Department of Revenue

Guidelines for the Indiana US DOT Number and Marking Requirements

What is the Amended Law?

This publication addresses Indiana Code 8-2.1-24-18 and the adoption of numerous federal rules regarding United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) numbers and vehicle markings for intrastate carriers. In general, this means certain intrastate motor carriers now have to obtain a US DOT number and mark their motor vehicles. The US DOT number marking requirements complements a nationwide initiative to enhance motor carrier compliance and safety regulations.

Certain carriers also have to file proof of financial responsibility and pay a \$10.00 fee per vehicle. This publication explains the US DOT number application process, the marking requirements, and the fees.

Who Does This Law Affect?

The law affects both private and for-hire intrastate carriers, who transport passengers or property when the vehicle:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight of 4,536 kilograms (10,001 pounds) or more, whichever is greater; or
- Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
- Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers (including the driver) and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or
- Is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under 49 United States Code 5103 and transported in a quantity requiring placards under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation under 49 Code of Federal Regulations, subtitle B, chapter I, subchapter C.

How Soon Must My Vehicles Be Registered and Marked?

Immediately. The statutory marking requirements are already in effect; however, enforcement begins January 1, 2003 for all vehicles listed above.

What About Farm Operations?

Intrastate vehicles used exclusively for private farm operations are exempt from obtaining a US DOT number; however, if you do cross the state line you are required to obtain and display a US DOT number.

Are There Any Exceptions to the Marking Requirements?

Yes. 49 CFR 390.3(g) excludes the following:

- All school bus operations as defined in [49 CFR 390.5](#);
- Transportation performed by the Federal government, a State, or any political subdivision of a State, or an agency established under a compact between States that has been approved by the Congress of the United States;
- The occasional transportation of personal property by individuals not for compensation nor in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise;
- The transportation of human corpses or sick and injured persons;
- The operation of fire trucks and rescue vehicles while involved in emergency and related operations.

How Do I Get the US DOT Number?

Complete Indiana Department of Revenue Forms BAS-1 and BAS-2. The Indiana Department of Revenue, Motor Carrier Services Division will issue the US DOT number to you with an "IN" suffix. You may also obtain forms by contacting our office at (317) 615-7350, by using the Tax Fax system at (317) 233-2329, or on our website at www.in.gov/dor/mcs/forms.html.

Will I Get a Separate US DOT Number for Each Vehicle?

No. One US DOT number will be assigned to the company or legal entity. You will use this same number for all of your vehicles.

Who Must File Proof of Financial Responsibility?

Along with the application for a US DOT number, the following carriers are required to provide proof of financial responsibility (insurance - Form E Indiana) with the State of Indiana, if they haven't already done so.

- Private carriers of hazardous materials requiring placards.
- For-Hire carriers of property, passengers and household goods.

What Fees Are Due With This Requirement?

There is a \$10 per vehicle fee for processing and registering your proof of financial responsibility (insurance). This fee is due only if you have not already paid a \$10 per vehicle fee for registering proof of financial responsibility under the SSRS registration with the Insurance & Safety Section. (You will know if you have already paid this fee if you have a Form RS-3 for the vehicles in question.)

What are the Vehicle Marking Requirements?

Indiana adopted federal marking requirements as defined at 49 CFR 390.21.

Nature of the Marking

The marking must display the following information:

- The name or trade name of the motor carrier operating the motor vehicle.
- The motor carrier identification number preceded by the letters “USDOT”, and with the “IN” suffix. Example: USDOT 123456 IN. If you are crossing state lines leave the “IN” off of your vehicle(s).

If the name marked on the vehicle is someone other than the operational carrier, you must add the above information, preceded by the words “operated by”.

Size, Shape, Color, and Location

The marking must:

- Appear on both sides of the motor vehicle.
- Be in letters and numbers that contrast sharply in color with the background on which the letters and numbers are placed.
- Be readily legible, during daylight hours, from a distance of 50 feet while the vehicle is stationary. The marking must always be maintained in this condition.

Construction and Durability

You may paint the marking on the motor vehicle, use decals, or it may be displayed on a removable device, if the device meets the above requirements.

What are the Requirements for Short Term Leases or Rented Vehicles?

A motor carrier who rents and operates a motor vehicle for 30 days or less may meet the marking requirement in one of two ways:

- 1) The motor vehicle is marked in the manner discussed above; or,
- 2) The motor vehicle may be marked with only the lessor's (the lessor is the person who actually owns the vehicle, and offers it for lease to another) information if the rental agreement between the lessor (owner) and the renting motor carrier conspicuously contains the following information:
 - I. The name and complete physical address of the principal place of business of the renting motor carrier;
 - II. The US DOT identification number issued to the renting motor carrier. (Yes, you must have a US DOT number even if you rent and operate vehicles for less than 30 days);
 - III. The sentence: "This lessor cooperates with all federal, state, and local law enforcement officials nationwide to provide the identity of customers who operate this rental commercial motor vehicle;" and
 - IV. A copy of the rental agreement is carried in the rental commercial motor vehicle during the term of the rental agreement.

Are There Any Exemptions to the Marking Requirements?

Yes. Federal law (49 CFR 390.23) provides for an exemption in certain emergencies. For example, an emergency declared by the President of the United States, the Governor of a State, or their representative will possibly qualify for an exception. When the governing body declares a national, state, or local emergency, contact that governing body for more information.